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binding himself to keep the process secret. It will be of interest to see how long such a course will be effective in maintaining the secret, and whether imitators will succeed in competing with the inventors.

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### DEFEAT OF THE BINDING-TWINE TRUST IN KANSAS.

THE People's Party of Kansas, in August, adopted a platform which says, among other things, that "we point with gratification to the erection of a plant for the manufacture of binding-twine by the state, which has checked the extortions of one monopoly by compelling it to reduce its prices, and has already saved thousands of dollars to the farmers of Kansas."

Hostilities in the Philippines reduced the supply of hemp almost simultaneously with the formation of the trust in this country. The result was a very high price at harvest time for the twine, exceeding by nearly 90 per cent. that paid at many times in the last decade. In Kansas, however, a plant at the State Penitentiary has succeeded in reducing trust prices nearly 40 per cent., the cost of the raw material preventing further reductions.

In carrying out this policy the state authorities found their chief obstacle in the fear that trust agents would buy up the output and sell it with other twine. To overcome this, a simple expedient was adopted, and it succeeded. Every farmer desiring twine sent an order to the factory, stating how much he would need, agreeing to pay transportation charges, and certifying that the amount ordered was for his personal use. As the season advanced, a more open policy was pursued, which finally put the product on sale with the regular dealers.

The trust at last met the state prices in Kansas, and only the crop failure in the Northwest prevented a similar contest there. A surplus remains at the factory. It seems probable that next harvest will bring a repetition of this year's experience.

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